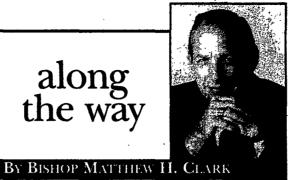
Young people readily share joy-filled faith

We will celebrate Diocesan Youth Day on Sunday. Hundreds of our 12-, 13-, and 14-year-old boys and girls will gather at the Geneseo campus of the State University of New York. Our gifted, lively young friends will play, pray, talk, eat, question, think, sing and have themselves a wonderful time. So will all of us who will have the joy of spending the day with them.

I find many joys in such a day. One of the great ones is to watch the youngsters meet and make friends with their peers from parishes all over our diocese. Such opportunities seem to expand their horizons and offer them the encouragement that there are many others like them who love their faith and want to grow in the Lord. It seems that they find strength in the number and variety of people their age who deal with the same issues they deal with and who share their journey of faith. To me that speaks volumes about the importance of community in the lives of all of us.

A second joy I have experienced in such days is the bright and good spirit the kids share with one another. To be sure, they have problems and challenges in their lives. Indeed, some of them cope with difficulties that would be heavy for the most mature adult. But when they gather, they manifest a spirit of openness to one another and a willingness to grow, which I find most refreshing. They remind me of important faith realities I can easily forget in the press of everyday living. I mean such things as Jesus wanting us to know his joy;



hoping that our joy might be complete; and Jesus saying he came that we might have life in abundance.

When these young people, in that fashion, remind us that our faith is about life, hope, new possibilities and the promise of joy, they truly are sources of renewal in our community of faith.

The third joy I associate with Diocesan Youth Days is the affectionate, committed presence of the youth ministers who stand in support of the young people of our diocese. I think of Michael Theisen, diocesan coordinator for youth ministry; the Diocesan Youth Council; the gifted youth ministers serving in a growing number of our parish communities; and of the many volunteers who translate their love for our young into generous service on their behalf.

When I am with them I always come away deeply heartened by their generosity. I also learn a lot from the respectful, loving ways in which they serve among our

I rarely, if ever, think about the pleasing

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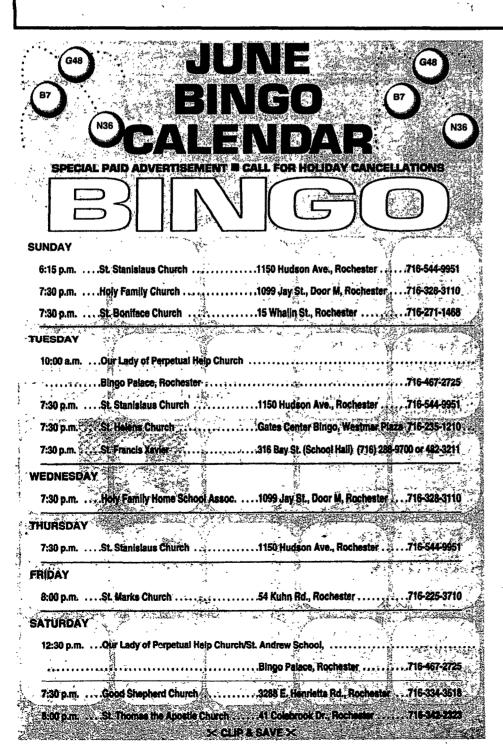
development of youth ministry in our diocese without a prayer of gratitude for Pope John Paul II. From the earliest days of his ministry to the church universal, he has been a strong reminder to all of us of the dignity of our young people and of their importance in the life of the church. His commitment to them and his ways with them have been beautiful to behold and a great encouragement to many of us. I think we still enjoy the benefits of his 1993 visit to Denver for World Youth Day.

Let me conclude this reflection by inviting you to think about our young friends. Who are the young people you know? What are they like? What are their interests? What are the difficulties they are facing? What do you think are the important questions they have on their minds? Do you ever have opportunity to converse with them about matters of common interest? If not, would you like to have that opportunity?

Are you familiar with the youth ministry that's happening in your parish? Would you like to know more about it and/or contribute to its development? Do you have some ideas about how we can more consistently and effectively support and encourage our youths?

Thanks for considering these questions. I encourage you to share your responses with your pastor and/or youth minister(s). If you prefer to send your thoughts directly to me, I will be sure they get to folks who will benefit from them.

Peace to all.



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YER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

Prayer Suggestion Rosary Day Offering

Eucharistic Adoration Offering of Sufferings Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priest

IUNE, 1996

	DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
_	Look for the July MPRP Calendar in the June 27th Catholic Courier					Reverend Fathers	Ordination 1 Francie Fuenre & Douglas Delle Pietra
	2	3	4	5	6	7	. 8
	Theodore J. Auble	Raymond W. Booth	Francis Vogt	William A. Moorby	Paul G. Wohirab	John Huber, CSB	Paul J. Tomasko
•	9	10	11	Most Rev.12	13	Jerome	15
	Leo J. Mans	William B. Holberton	Bernard F. Dollen	Matthew H. Clark	Joseph V. Versage	Machar, OCSO	Michael F. Conboy
•	16	Peter 17.	18	19	20	21	22
	Kip F. Corriveau	Etlinger, CSA	George H. Hill	Winfried M. Keliner	Dennis R. Sewar	<i>Jo</i> hn Poluikis	Paul R. Schnacky
•	23	24	25	26	27	28	Robert J. 29 Kanka
	John J. Steger	Robert G. Miller	Eugene R. Weis	Robert J. Winterkom	James F. O'Connell	Brian E. Jeffers	30 LeoJ. Klem, CSB

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